SEP 2 3 2005

Attorney Docket No. 566/44299 PATENT

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 SEP 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Andreas TAZREITER

Serial No.:

National Stage of Application

Art Unit:

Not yet assigned

Filed:

September 23, 2005

No. PCT/EP04/001667

Examiner:

Not yet assigned

For:

RETRACTABLE STEP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Barnes & Thornburg Customer No:

23646

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Sir:

Please amend the subject application as shown in the attachment hereto.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

Substitute Specification begins on page 3 of this paper.

Marked-up copy of Substitute Specification begins on page 8 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 14 of this paper.

A Replacement Abstract begins on page 16 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 17 of this paper.